

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 14-26 were rejected. Claims 27 and 28 were allowed, and claim 2 was objected to for its dependency from a rejected base claim. In this Response, claims 2, 3, 6-9, 18-20 and 24 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. The amendments are fully supported by the originally filed application and no new matter is added.

Accordingly, claims 2-3, 6-11, and 14-28 are now pending, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 27 and 28 and for finding claim 2 allowable if rewritten in independent form including the recitations of its base claim. In the interests of furthering allowance of all pending claims, Applicants have amended claim 2 without prejudice as suggested by the Examiner (see below). In addition, Applicants have amended the remaining independent claims 9 and 24 without prejudice to recite features substantially similar to those of amended claim 2 (claim 9) or allowed claim 27 (claim 24). These amendments place all remaining claims in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 2 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), but stated that claim 2 would be allowable in rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all of the recitations of claim 1; there were no intervening claims. Applicants have also cancelled claim 1 and amended all claims formerly dependent upon claim 1 to depend instead upon claim 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 6-8 and 18-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 2, incorporating its recitations, and are thus in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0128036 to Yach et al. (“Yach”). As stated above, claim 24 has been amended to recite subject matter substantially similar to that of claim 27, and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claim 25 depends from claim 24, incorporating its recitations, and is thus also in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,763,095 to Cermak et al. (hereinafter “Cermak”) in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0128036 to Yach et al. (hereinafter “Yach”) and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,640,239 to Gidwani (hereinafter “Gidwani”). Claims 9, 11, 14-17, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the above prior art in further view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 7,047,030 to Forsyth et al. (hereinafter “Forsyth”). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the above prior art in further view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0128036 to Kaaresoja et al. (hereinafter “Kaaresoja”). Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over the above prior art in further view of both Forsyth and Kaaresoja. Claim 26 was rejected as being unpatentable over Yach in view of Kaaresoja.

The cancellation of claim 1 obviates the rejection as to this claim.

As discussed above, claims 3, 6-8 and 18-20 are currently in condition for allowance based on their dependence upon amended claim 2.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite subject matter substantially similar to that of

amended claim 2, and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 10, 11, 14-17 and 21-23 depend from claim 9, incorporating its recitations, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 26 depends from amended claim 24, incorporating its recitations, and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons.

In light of the above amendments and discussion, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of all rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1513. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
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